

Project Summary Sheet

Project Name: Virginia Colony Flood Storage and Habitat Enhancement Project

Tracking No: 200784110

Location: Arroyo Simi between Highway 118 at the Virginia Colony and Collins Drive in the City of Moorpark.

County: Ventura

Project Sponsor: Ventura County Watershed Protection District

Point of Contact: Sergio Vargas, (805) 650-4077

Co-applicant(s): None

Assembly District: #37 Audra Strickland **Senate District:** #19 Tom McClintock

Project Summary: The applicant is asking for funding to acquire easements on 7 properties, to construct a detention basin on the north side of the railroad tracks, to do mitigation planning, and to cover part of the mitigation costs. The future phases, not included in the proposal budget, would include a detention basin on the south side of the railroad tracks, channel widening, and overflow channel. These facilities would be located on, adjacent to, or downstream from the parcels that could be acquired using FPCP funding.

Flood Benefits: Immediate benefit would be the prevention of development on the properties through easements and a 6% reduction in peak flows for the 100-year flood. The project would avoid possible increases in flooding problems due to preventing development on the site.

More than 30% of The City of Moorpark is located within the floodplain. Downstream there are 68,000 people, 1100 structures, State Highway 118 (80,000 trips/day), Metrolink (4,400 commuters/day), Amtrak, and agricultural areas.

The detention basin on the north side of the railroad tracks would be a natural creek area that would retain floodwater due to a control weir at the downstream end of the area. It would not have levees. The natural upland areas surrounding the creek would contain the water.

The basin would hold up to 200 acre feet and would reduce the peak flow from 20,467 cfs to 19,200 cfs in a 100-year flood. This is a 6% peak flow reduction. The potential tax payer dollar savings in a 50 year event would be \$15,561,132. In a 50 year event, the potential savings would be \$18,885,278.

Future phases of the project would further protect the City of Moorepark by reducing the flood stage and reducing flood flows. A high-flow channel will also be constructed at the project site that will help direct flow to the detention basin on the south side of the railroad tracks. Flows at or above 20-year levels will be directed into the detention basin on the north side of the tracks as well.

Future phases of the project would cause a 1.5 foot or approximately a 10% decrease in water surface level in the City of Moorpark. This would result in a 25% reduction in the cost of repairing flood-damaged property due to a 100-year event.

Agricultural Benefits: Immediate benefit would be the prevention of development on the properties through easements. Future phases would not affect agriculture.

Agricultural Land Conserved: 13.7 acres

Wildlife Benefits: Immediate benefit would be the prevention of development on the properties through easements.

Future benefits would be the creation of wetland habitat within the detention basin. About 0.5 acres of the 110 acres of riparian habitat would be removed for placement of the detention basin. Additional riparian habitat may be developed as part of the flood storage augmentation portion of the Project.

Wildlife Habitat Conserved: 57.9 acres

Total area conserved: 71.6 acres

Other Benefits: Water quality would be improved by trapping sediments. Water storage will add to recharge of the groundwater aquifer. The project will provide passive public recreation.

Total Cost Current Phase: \$6,015,015 (acquisition, northern detention basin, part of mitigation)

FPCP Cost: \$ 5,000,000 (management review team recommendation to partially fund \$1,000,000 at this time).

Funding Partners and Share of Cost: Local Funds contributed is \$500,000 and in-kind funds of \$500,000.

Additional Questions: The 200 acre feet detention basin north of the railroad tracks in Phase 1 could reduce the peak flow from 20,467 cfs to 19,200 cfs in a 100-year flood. This is a 6% peak flow reduction. There was no analysis provided on the flood reduction benefits of the future phases.

1. What exactly will the FPCP funds pay for?

FPCP funding would pay a portion of the costs for conservation easements on 7 properties, detention basin construction, mitigation planning, and part of the mitigation.

- a. If the project applicant indicated they could accept less funding, what (if anything) would be cut from the project? What is lost by providing less FPCP grant money?

The applicant response is that by not doing the detention basin work, the cost to the program would be approximately \$3.5 million. Were this to happen, the District would seek other funding to construct the detention basin. However, the nature of the mitigation mentioned in the budget, totaling over \$350,000 in is not clear. Perhaps this portion of project funding could be removed. The \$1 million recommended by the Management Review Team plus the \$1 million provided by the applicant will be enough to start the project, but not enough to provide tangible flood benefits. The project will need additional funding from future funding cycles to reach the \$3.5 million minimum needed for the right-of-way acquisition, detention basin construction, and associated mitigation needs.

- b. Does the applicant have access to alternate funding to replace the amount deducted from their request so that they can still spend the total amount they requested? If so, what would be the alternate funding source(s) and is the alternate funding already allocated, promised or committed?

The applicant does not have alternate funding, but can apply for 2008-09 funding from the FPCP.

- c. When giving a project score credit for matching funds, how much of the funding is matched? What is the source of the matching funds and are the matching funds already committed?

Estimated Total Phase 1 Project Cost	\$6,015,014
Amount of FPCP Grant Funds Requested	\$5,000,000
Amount of Local Funds Contributed	\$ 500,000
Amount of In-kind Contributions	\$ 515,014

The local and in-kind contributions are committed. The project applicant will provide this funding.

2. If there is funding for acquisition of property, is the type of ownership an easement, fee title or both easement and fee title? Who will own the easement and/or fee title?

Easements will be acquired and held by the applicant. Fee title will remain in the ownership of Mr. and Mrs. Butler, El Rancho Alegre, LLC., and the Department of Transportation.

3. Can the management of transitory water storage on the site be optimized for flood benefit? Can the project be designed to retain floodwater? Is the applicant willing to work with DWR on the timing of water management during extreme flood events?

FPCP funding would pay for a detention basin on the north side of the railroad track. This detention basin will slow the flow and detain the water for an additional 8-10 hours. This detention basin would be located in a natural creek area that would be made to retain floodwater through control of a weir at the downstream end of the area. It would not have levees. The natural upland areas surrounding the creek would contain the water.

Future phases, not proposed to be funded in the current application, include a high-flow channel and another detention basin on the south side of the railroad tracks. The high-flow channel will divert water to the permanent detention basin.

The applicant is willing to work with DWR on the timing of water management during extreme flood events. Each detention basin will have its own outlet pipe structure to allow water to drain. The outlet pipe opening can be regulated by the District to control the quantity and timing of flow out of each detention basin.

4. There were many other parcels that were shown as needing to be acquired for the overall project. Will all of these parcels need to be acquired before the detention basin on the south side of the rail road tracks, bank protection, and overflow channel can be built?

The attached map shows the properties that would have easements acquired with FPCP funding in yellow. The properties shown in orange would need easements for future phases including high flow channel and permanent detention basin. Two of the parcels needed for Phase 2 are owned by the City of Moorpark. It is possible the City will provide an easement for little or no cost. The parcel colored blue already has a flood easement and will be used in combination with the FPCP parcels to complete the detention basin on the north side of the railroad tracks.

5. What is the expected time frame for all of the needed acquisitions for the overall project? It is anticipated that full acquisition will take place within 6-10 years.

6. Has funding been committed or proposed for these acquisitions?

The Ventura County Watershed Protection District (applicant) has placed the future expenses for the overall project into their future commitments schedule to their Board. This assures that funding will be budgeted for future years. The budget is approved yearly. Additional funding will still be needed. It is hoped that State and Federal sources will be available. They also hope to assess a fee in relation to development companies who have existing housing downstream of the project area.

7. What is the estimated cost for the overall project?

Easement acquisition	\$8,000,000
High-flow channel construction	\$7,000,000
Southern detention basin and mitigation	\$26,000,000
Public recreation easements and park	<u>\$3,000,000</u>
	\$44,000,000